



R. Walker

The Rodman Gun

U. S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gateway National Recreation Area

Fort Wadsworth

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National Park Service

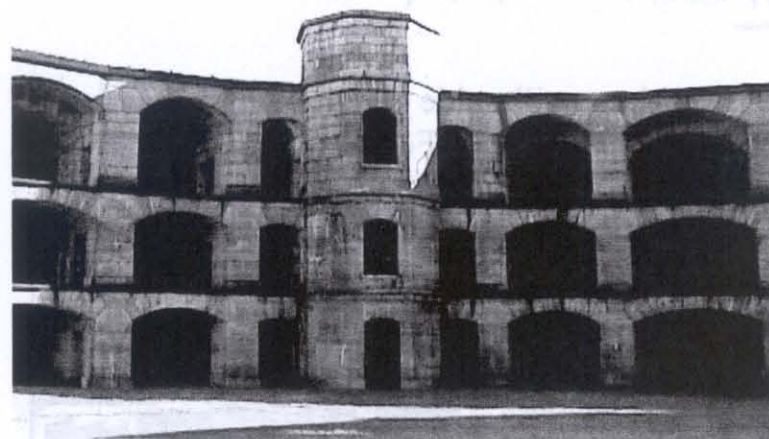
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Fort Wadsworth

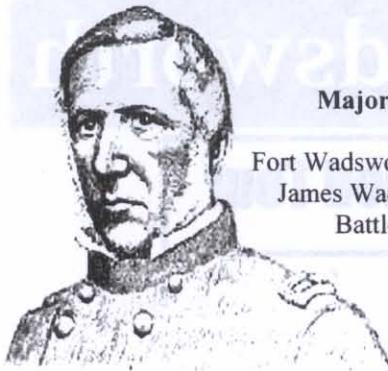
Self-Guided Tour



Gateway National Recreation Area

- Staten Island Unit

WELCOME TO FORT WADSWORTH

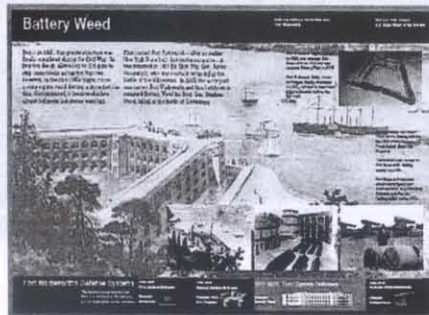


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Major General James Wadsworth

Fort Wadsworth was named after Major General James Wadsworth, mortally wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness in 1864.

This brochure will guide you through the unique resources that make up Fort Wadsworth and the defenses of New York Harbor. Along the route are numerous waysides to give you more information about the buildings and the landscape.



Wayside exhibit of Battery Weed

We hope you enjoy your visit !

Self Guided Tour

Fort Wadsworth has, in our nations past, played a varied role in deterring enemy naval-assaults by way of the mile-wide channel called the Verrazano Narrows. As you explore the historic Civil War fortifications, you will take a journey thru the annals of time.



The Torpedo Shed

What Will I See?

- 1. Training Mortar** – Manufactured in 1914, mortars were used to fire conical shells at high trajectory, enabling the shell to pierce a ship's deck armor.
- 2. Fort Tompkins** - Protecting Battery Weed and the Narrows from a land attack, Fort Tompkins was constructed between 1859 and 1876. The fort's construction was devised to protect the Narrows from naval invasions and to secure New York's growing position as an economic leader. This granite marvel now serves as a reminder of America's determination to stand against any pending threat or danger.
- 3. Battery Duane** - One of twelve Endicott Era batteries located in Fort Wadsworth, Battery Duane (completed in 1896) was the first counter-weighted "disappearing" gun battery in the United States.
- 4. Six Pounder** - As part of a battery of two, this type of rifled cannon stood adjacent to Battery Duane and protected the larger gun batteries from a land attack.

Self Guided Tour

5. Battery Barbour, Battery Turnbull, Battery Bacon- Known collectively as South Cliff Battery. Work on South Cliff Battery commenced in the fall of 1862 and was completed in 1866. During the Civil War, America was fortifying its seacoast to defend its shores from the threat of military invasion. As a result, South Cliff Battery, located at Fort Wadsworth, was added to the overall defense arsenal of our growing nation. South Cliff Battery housed nine, 15-inch Rodman guns that were mounted on iron - barbette tier - carriages.

6. Battery Weed - Constructed of granite blocks and completed during the Civil War (1864). This four-tiered structure is an important example of the Third System of military architecture. The Fort report for 1864 listed over 100 cannons. Obsolete by the end of the war, it served the rest of its career as a storage facility.



Fort Tompkins

7. Torpedo Shed\Wharf - Destroyed by fire in the 1980's, the Torpedo Shed was used to store underwater mines deployed across the Narrows. From the wharf, the General Ord, a mine laying ship, was used to plant the mines in the water. These mines could be detonated from a fire control station located on shore.

8. Battery Catlin also known as North Cliff Battery - Served the same supporting role as did the South Cliff Batteries. In 1867, North Cliff battery's defensive gun emplacements housed twenty-three, 15-inch Rodman guns.

9. Mont Sec Avenue - Officer's Row represents a cohesive streetscape of eleven residential structures built from the 1870's to the 1930's.

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

FORT WADSWORTH



Photo donated by: Mike Burmeister

Fort Wadsworth is one of the oldest military installations in the nation. The site occupies 226 acres on the northeastern shore of Staten Island, on the Narrows of New York Harbor. Rich in history and natural beauty, Fort Wadsworth affords the visitor the opportunity to observe an important part of our nations history, while offering magnificent views of New York Harbor.

Fort Wadsworth Walking Tour

